

## Message Text

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46

ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OES-06 COME-00 INT-05 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 PM-04 NSF-02 /035 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/MEX:HBLANE:AC

APPROVED BY ARA/MEX:JTDREYFUSS

DOD/ISA:TAUSTIN (DRAFT)

DESIRED DISTRIBUTION

OES/APT

----- 034866

R 151320Z MAY 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO

INFO SECDEF

CNO

CO NORDA

UNCLAS STATE 119778

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:OCLP, TPHY, MX

SUBJECT: OCEANOGRAPHIC RESEARCH REQUEST

1. NAVAL OCEAN RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY (NORDA) SPONSORS A PROGRAM OF FUNDAMENTAL, UNCLASSIFIED GEOPHYSICAL INVESTIGATION OF THE STRUCTURE AND DYNAMICS OF THE EARTH'S CRUST UNDERLYING THE OCEANS. THE EAST PACIFIC RISE, OF WHICH THE GULF OF CALIFORNIA FORMS THE CENTRAL RIFT VALLEY, IS ONE OF THE MOST ACTIVE CENTERS OF SEA FLOOR SPREADING AND AS SUCH IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE MOVEMENT OF THE CRUST WHICH CAUSES THE EARTHQUAKES IN CENTRAL AMERICA AND CREATES THE MIDDLE AMERICA TRENCH. A STUDY OF THE COMPLEX TECTONIC, GEOTHERMAL AND SEDIMENTARY DYNAMIC REGIMES IN THE AREA IS OF PARTICULAR IMPORTANCE TO THE UNDERSTANDING OF THESE FUNDAMENTAL PROCESSES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. FROM SUCH BASIC KNOWLEDGE IS ULTIMATELY DERIVED INFORMATION OF UNCLASSIFIED

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DIRECT ENGINEERING VALUE.

2. A VITAL PART OF SEA FLOOR GEOPHYSICAL RESEARCH IS DIRECT OBSERVATION FROM SUBMERSIBLES. IN THE SPRING OF 1975 THE NORDA OCEAN RESEARCH OFFICE, THEN THE OCEAN SCIENCE DIVISION, EXPEDITION TO THE COCOS RIDGE AND MIDDLE AMERICA TRENCH BY A NUMBER OF EMINENT MARINE GEOLOGISTS USING THE DEEP SUB-

MERGENCE VEHICLE TURTLE AND HER SUPPORT VESSEL MAXINE D. THE OBSERVATIONS WERE OF SUBSTANTIAL SCIENTIFIC VALUE. BASED ON THE 1975 RESULTS, IT IS SEEN NECESSARY TO EXTEND THE STUDY TO THE NORTH IN AND NEAR THE GULF OF CALIFORNIA AND REVILLAGIGEDO ISLANDS. THE PROPOSED RESEARCH TRACK WOULD PROCEED SOUTH ALONG THE WEST COAST OF BAJA, CALIFORNIA TO PUERTO VALLARTA THEN NORTH INTO THE GULF OF CALIFORNIA TO TIBURON ISLAND. THEN THE TRACK WOULD PROCEED SOUTH, EXIT THE GULF ALONG THE CREST OF THE EAST PACIFIC RISE TO THE REVILLAGIGEDO ISLANDS. THE TRACK WOULD THEN PROCEED EAST ALONG THE RIVERA FRACTURE ZONE TO PUERTO VALLARTA, SOUTH ALONG THE MEXICAN COAST TO ABOUT PUNTA SAN TELMO AND THEN RETURN TO THE U.S. A CHARTLET IS BEING POUCHED SEPARATELY. BECAUSE OF THE 6500 FOOT DEPTH LIMIT OF THE SUBMERSIBLE, A NUMBER OF DIVES WOULD BE WITHIN MEXICAN TERRITORIAL WATERS.

3. THE PLANNED ITINERARY IS AS FOLLOWS:

7 - 11 JULY        LEG I; TRANSIT SAN DIEGO -

11 - 14 JULY        UPKEEP, PUERTO VALLARTA

14 - 26 JULY        LEG II; DIVES 1 - 8

26 - 29 JULY:        UPKEEP, MAZATLAN

29 JULY - 9 AUGUST    LEG III; DIVES 9 - 17

9 - 13 AUGUST        UPKEEP, PUERTO VALLARTA

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13 - 20 AUGUST        LEG IV; DIVES 18 - 23

20 - 23 AUGUST        UPKEEP, MAZATLAN

23 AUGUST- 3 SEPTEMBER    LEG V; DIVES 24 - 29

3 SEPTEMBER        TRANSIT TO SAN DIEGO

4. M/V MAXINE D IS A 165 FOOT, 200 TON OFFSHORE SUPPORT VESSEL CHARTERED FROM THE OFFSHORE LOGISTICS COMPANY, LAFAYETTE, LOUISIANA BY THE MILITARY SEALIFT COMMAND FOR USE BY COMMANDER, SUBMARINE DEVELOPMENT GROUP ONE AS A SUBMERSIBLE SUPPORT VESSEL. DSV TURTLE IS A 25 TON, 3 MAN 6500 FOOT DEPTH SUBMERSIBLE, TRANSPORTED AND HANDLED FROM AFTERDECK OF MAXINE D. THE MASTER

OF MAXINE D IS JOSEPH TRAVINO. OFFICER IN CHARGE, DSV TURTLE: LCDR DENNIS J. BIELICKI, USN. THREE SCIENTISTS WILL NORMALLY BE EMBARKED. DR. BRUCE C. HEEGEN OF COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY'S LAMONT-DOHERTY OBSERVATORY WILL BE THE CHIEF SCIENTIST. THE OTHERS WILL INCLUDE DR. MAURICIO PORRAZ, ORGANIZATION SUBMARINA, GUTTENBERG 47-803, MEXICO CITY, MEXICO, D.F. ACCOMMODATIONS ARE EXTREMELY LIMITED. ONE OR TWO OF DR. PORRAZ' COLLEAGUES MIGHT OCCASIONALLY BE EMBARKED; HOWEVER, BECAUSE OF THE VERY LIMITED AVAILABILITY OF SUBMERSIBLE TIME, THE AMOUNT OF TIME CONSUMED BY EACH DIVE (24 HOURS) AND THE HIGH VALUE OF THE SCHEDULED DIVES TO THE NORDA PROGRAM, IT IS REGRETTED THAT SERVICES CANNOT BE OFFERED TO CONDUCT OTHER RESEARCH.

5. DATA WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE TO MEXICO THROUGH DR. PORRAZ OR DIRECTLY TO GOM.

6. REQUEST APPROACH GOM TO SEEK PERMISSION FOR CONDUCT OF PORTION OF PROJECT WHICH MAY TAKE PLACE WITHIN MEXICAN TERRITORIAL WATER AND PORT VISITS LISTED PARA 3. IN ADDITION, IT WOULD BE HIGHLY ADVANTAGEOUS TO HAVE STANDING PERMISSION TO ENTER MAZATLAN DURING THE EXPEDITION, AS THERE WILL BE OCCASIONAL LOGISTICS PROBLEMS AS WELL AS DELICATE REPAIRS TO THE SUBMERSIBLE WHICH WILL REQUIRE UNCLASSIFIED

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SHELTERED WATERS.

KISSINGER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** OCLP, OCEANOGRAPHIC RESEARCH, PORT CLEARANCES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 15 MAY 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976STATE119778  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** HBLANE:AC  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760191-0784  
**From:** SECSTATE WASHDC  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19760549/aaaabqfw.tel  
**Line Count:** 157  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ORIGIN ARA  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** CollinP0  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 09 JUN 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <09 JUN 2004 by wolfsd>; APPROVED <26 JAN 2005 by CollinP0>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** OCEANOGRAPHIC RESEARCH REQUEST  
**TAGS:** TPHY, OCLR, MX  
**To:** MEXICO  
CNO  
MULTIPLE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006